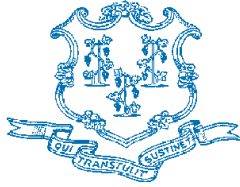


State Representative Lewis J. Wallace, Jr.

2005 End of Session Report

Serving Danbury's 109th Assembly District



Dear Neighbor,

Together we can continue to move Connecticut forward and improve the economic well being and quality of life for everyone.

As we went into session this year, we were faced with a sluggish economy, stagnant job growth, and critical needs to meet.

The budget I voted for raises no taxes on the middle class, and is balanced and fair. It provides property tax relief directly to Danbury residents by increasing the property tax credit to \$400 by 2006. It provides for further property tax relief by increasing aid to our cities and towns by over \$142 million, including increases to cities such as Danbury through priority school funding, town aid for roads and educational cost sharing.

Finally, it provides quality health care for working people and retirees by eliminating co-pays and premiums on Medicaid and HUSKY, thus restoring the essential programs our citizens need and allowing access to health care for more than 300,000 people.

This budget is fiscally sound, meets the most urgent needs in our state, and keeps us on the right track.

Very truly yours,

Lewis J. Wallace, Jr.
State Representative

Bringing More Money Back to Danbury

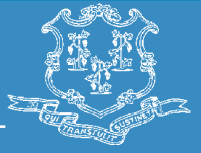
I voted for this year's budget to bring more money back to Danbury. More state tax dollars will go to Educational Cost Sharing (ECS), Special Education, Town Aid to Roads as well as PILOT funding to reimburse Danbury and other municipalities for state property, colleges and hospitals. In addition to these very important issues, this budget addresses other needs for our state, such as:

- \$250,000 for an autism detection, prevention and support pilot program;
- \$2.3 million each year for additional Transportation Strategy Board projects to reduce traffic congestion; and
- Exempting from the state sales tax the purchase of textbooks and related workbooks by occupational school students.

I opposed the Governor's proposed alcohol, gasoline, and cigarette taxes and voted to replace them with a tax on estate transfers valued at over \$2 million.

To provide aid to our veterans, I supported exempting 50% of federally taxable military retirement pay from the state income tax beginning in 2008. The exemption applies to federal retirement pay to members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Army and Air National Guard.

CAPITOL UPDATE 2005



Increasing Education Funding To Improve Our Schools

Danbury Major Education Aid

Last Year

Family Resource Center	\$155,950
Youth Service Bureaus	56,659
Special Education	578,459
Transportation (Public)	703,428
Transportation (Non-Public)	155,291
Adult Education	105,475
Non-Public Health Services	140,108
Education Equalization	15,211,231
Priority School Districts	1,584,125
School Readiness	1,483,177
Early Reading Success	765,871
School Accountability	142,279
Total	\$21,591,905

This Year

Family Resource Center	\$204,500
Youth Service Bureaus	59,829
Special Education	593,857
Transportation (Public)	697,884
Transportation (Non-Public)	178,565
Adult Education	105,475
Non-Public Health Services	140,750
Education Equalization	16,223,672
Priority School Districts	2,073,928
School Readiness	1,767,387
Early Reading Success	754,270
School Accountability	187,336
Total	\$22,987,453
INCREASE	\$1,395,548



State Rep. Lew Wallace speaks with children at the Stadley Rough School.

Since my election in 1996, I have fought to sit on the Education Committee to make sure our needs are heard, and addressed, through increased state aid. The increased funding I fought to secure improves our schools, keeps property taxes down and helps keep housing values high.

As a member of the Appropriations and Education Committees, I worked to bolster the ECS grant program, which provides educational funding for the city of Danbury, and brought in an increase of almost \$1.4 million in state aid this year.

I also worked to secure grant money for school construction projects for Danbury. The results are \$33 million in state funding (SB 202, PA 05-6) to improve Danbury High School, Broadview Middle School and Rogers Park Middle School. The funds will also be used to construct a new Danbury elementary school, the Academy for International Studies, and to convert the former Immanuel Lutheran School into a Greater Danbury Head Start Education site.

Additionally, \$44,000 (SA 05-2) will be directed to Henry Abbott Technical School for facility improvements.

Honesty In Gas Prices

In these days of runaway gas prices consumers have the right to know how much they are paying at the pump, so I supported and voted for SB 412, An Act Concerning the Posting of Gas Prices (PA 05-89). This legislation requires customer clubs or organizations that sell gasoline to the general public to post prices in the same manner for members and non-members. In an effort to draw customers, some club retailers prominently display discounted prices available only to members. Given the spike in gas prices, the bill seeks to ensure that you have the accurate information needed to make informed choices. This new law became effective on passage.



Advancing Medical Research

I voted to have Connecticut become the third state to endorse and fund stem cell research. SB 934, An Act Permitting Stem Cell Research and Banning the Cloning of Human Beings (PA 05-149), is a landmark bill that provides a 'safe haven' for stem cell researchers by establishing a regulatory framework for conducting the research. Included in the legislation is a 10-year, \$100 million funding commitment designed to keep Connecticut's best and brightest scientific minds in state, and to attract new ones from around the nation and world. Many scientists believe that stem cell research holds great promise for finding cures for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, juvenile diabetes and other diseases - as stem cells have the unique potential to repair all types of damaged tissue in the body.

Improving Connecticut's Quality of Life

As the House Chairman of the Planning & Development Committee, one of my major initiatives has been reducing sprawl, protecting open space and slowing property tax increases. I wrote and worked to pass HB 6570, An Act Concerning Plans of Conservation and Development (PA 05-205), which will directly benefit cities like Danbury where existing infrastructure for commercial and industrial development exists. Future State Plans of Conservation and Development will target those areas for priority funding, as well as areas where it is prudent and feasible to have mixed-use development and land reuse that is compact, accessible to transit, pedestrian-oriented and will promote such patterns and reuse. Further, the State Plan of Conservation and Development will establish corridor management areas on either side of a limited-access highway or a rail line to coordinate development in those areas. PA 05-205 begins the process of incorporating the principals of "smart growth" into municipal, regional, and state planning. The bill generally restricts state funding for growth-related projects to priority funding areas and establishes new criteria for targeting state funding for such projects, but exempts libraries and property used for governmental purposes from the restrictions. The Smart Growth legislation went into effect on July 1, 2005.



State Rep. Lew Wallace leading a briefing outlining how Smart Growth legislation will help keep property taxes down.

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Protecting Victims of Crime

I believe a victim of crime has the right to know when his or her attacker is being released from prison. I voted for SB 1280, An Act Concerning Notification of the Office of Victim Services By the Department of Correction upon the Release of an Inmate (PA 05-68), which requires the Department of Correction to notify the Office of Victim Services when it releases an inmate on re-entry furlough into the community. At that time, the Office of Victim Services is responsible for notifying the victims who requested notification of an inmate's release. Victims will be notified through certified mail, and are responsible for making sure that the Office of Victim Services has their current mailing address. This legislation is effective October 1, 2005.

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LEGISLATION CHECKLIST

If you would like additional information on recent legislation in any of the following areas, please log onto www.cga.ct.gov or check the subject you are interested in and return this form to me.

- ☐ Business
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Crime
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Government Administration and Elections
- ☐ Insurance
- ☐ Major Public Acts
- ☐ Municipalities
- ☐ Real Estate
- ☐ Seniors
- ☐ Veterans
- ☐ Other _____
(please specify)

Name _____

Address _____
